

The CHRISTIAN



 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) *Visitor*

Join Us for Holy Week *Preparations for the Journey*

As we continue through this season of preparation drawing closer to Holy Week, it is a time of reflection. It is a time to realign and focus toward God.

Here at FCC we are preparing for that journey through the planning of a very thoughtful Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday (April 14) when we are led by children in a palm procession that commemorates the triumphant arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Our journey continues on Maundy Thursday when Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another as he had loved them. We will observe this time with a special service of communion and meditation, "Light to the Darkness" with music by the Sanctuary Choir and special *guest cellist, Adriana Contino (for details see pages 2 and 4).*

We share in our observation of Good Friday with our neighboring churches in downtown Bloomington. This year we will welcome the community to our sanctuary as we host a Taizé style worship service that includes the reading of the Passion of the Christ (more information on page 2).

We celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday, April 21 with two services! We will join First Christian Church of Bedford for a special sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. at Camp Bedford. This service will be followed by breakfast at the camp. At 10:00 a.m. we will worship in our sanctuary with special music from our Sanctuary Choir. The celebration will continue following worship with our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children can bring a basket to join in the festivities.

Consider spending Holy Week with your family at FCC. And bring a friend. All are welcome at FCC and "All means All."

Candy Donations Needed by April 14!

Donations of candy for our Easter Egg Hunt are appreciated. Please, be sure to bring "Nut-Free" candy! FCC's Youth will be stuffing hundreds of eggs, so consider donating a bag (or two) of candy .



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Pastor's Pen

Especially this time of year, as we approach Holy Week, I don't want to trivialize the meaning of the word "sacrifice," but I'm going to do so anyway, because I am asking you to sacrifice three things on the Thursday and Friday before Easter: First, I ask you to sacrifice any other plans you might have so that you can attend our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services, even if your plan is to stay home. Second, I ask you to sacrifice the few extra minutes it will take you to find a parking spot in our very busy downtown so that you can attend these services. And third, I ask you to sacrifice your hard earned coins to a city parking meter so that you can attend these services.

Of course, these three things can't actually be called "sacrifices"! In reality, they are intentional choices that we make because we, dear FCC, have committed to remain downtown, in the heart of a vibrant and quite secular city. Inconvenient? Yes! Sacrificial? Absolutely not!

The things that ARE sacrificial are the selfless acts of service, and prophetic challenge, and healing and compassion offered by Jesus as he made his way toward Jerusalem. The thing that IS sacrificial is the love he poured out—without regard for his own life—trusting in God's power to make all things new.

So, inconvenient as it may be for us on Thursday and Friday of Holy Week, let's come together to remember what it *really* means to sacrifice. Let's come together and allow ourselves to tremble a bit as we recount the dramatic events of that took place in the final days of Jesus's life and ministry. Let's come together to give thanks for a meal shared,

forgiveness offered, a body given up, love poured out, life promised.

On Maundy Thursday at 7:30, we will gather—twelve at a time—to remember the events that happened when Jesus gathered with his friends in the upper room. Meditative cello and choral music will give us time and space to ponder the power of the scripture. Striking images of the Lord's Supper, painted by the masters, will be projected onto the wall and will invite us to open our hearts to the haunting truths revealed on this holy night. This will be a service you will want to invite someone to attend with you. More information about our guest cellist Adriana Contino can be found on page 4.

On Good Friday at 12:10 pm, we will be hosting the Community Service. This will be in the tradition of Taize Worship, with candle lighting, meditative singing, and a shared reading of Christ's Passion. (I strongly encourage you to do a little research on the Taize Community in France, where this style of worship finds its origin.)

Trust me when I say this: the "sacrifice" you make by attending these inconvenient services of worship will not result in making you feel good about yourself and this world. But by choosing to participate, come Easter morning--- your Halleluiahs will be more heartfelt and sung more heartily than ever before! That's my promise! See you Sunday!

Helen Hemphing

Pastor Helen

The FCC Story Today!

What ever happened to the FCC Story? What exactly IS the FCC Story?

This column, a new regular feature of our newsletters and bulletin inserts, will inform and update you about the FCC Story (first known as the Future Story), which has served as our guide and vision for the past two+ years.

The Story, presented to the congregation in January 2017, was the outcome of an 18-month congregation-wide, intensive, and intentional visioning process designed to help us name and claim our purpose and our mission. Deliberately and prayerfully, we invested time and our group energies to envision how we could better navigate the rapidly shifting landscape of downtown Bloomington. And believe it or not, the FCC Story is very much alive today. First Friday Jazz Vespers, XPLOR, lawn events, and our new small groups are all part of the Story's unfolding. If you want to read the FCC Story in its entirety, please call or email the church office and we'll get you a copy. In the meantime, be sure to read future newsletters and bulletin inserts so you can stay up to date. The FCC Story is our story, and it's my hope that this new feature will help us all celebrate that story each day as we strive to share the inclusive love of Christ on our very special corner here in downtown Bloomington.



The family of Roger Heimer would like to offer thanks to all who gave us care and shared prayers and love with us during his years of illness and in celebration of his life.

-The Heimer Family

Many thanks to all of you who sent cards when I was in the hospital. They were a cheery reminder of the love and care of the FCC church family!

-Sandy Rampley

FCC's Beautiful Display Window

You have probably noticed over the years how our display window in the hall outside of the Chapel Gathering Space always looks so lovely. The vignette changes over the course of the year, sometimes giving us a glimpse of FCC history and other times reflective of the church season that we are currently observing. The person behind the scenes of this display has been Jane Zebendon. Jane has lovingly cared for this piece of FCC for many years. She now passes that responsibility to Marilyn Locascio. So, next time you see Jane, please thank her. And next time you see Marilyn tell her thank you too! Marilyn has already designed a beautiful display on crosses that you will get to enjoy very soon!

FCC Family Meeting on April 14

After worship on Palm Sunday, bring the whole family—children, youth, parents, even grandparents—to the Great Hall from 11:15-12:15 for a special time of fellowship to learn and dialogue about FCC's new and ongoing ministry with children, youth, and the adults who love them. Enjoy special fellowship hour goodies, activities for young children, a photo montage of recent family ministry efforts, and a presentation by Ashlyn Reynolds and Connie Myers. Every family participating will receive free take home activities to make Holy Week and Easter meaningful for the whole family.

Watch your inbox for a special eVite.



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND MEDITATION***LIGHT TO THE DARKNESS***

Thursday, April 18, 7:30 PM

The Light, The Water, The Table, The Garden, The Courtyard, The Cross, The Darkness

On Maundy Thursday, the Sanctuary Choir will be joined by guest cellist Adriana Contino, as we trace the journey of Christ during the last days of Holy Week. This moving service of worship includes a series of readings, prayer, scripture, meditation and observance of communion that begins with Christ's promise; the light Christ can bring to lives and moves with the events of Holy Week through a Tenebrae service of extinguishing candles at the death of Jesus.

**Adriana Contino, cellist**

Our guest musician, Adriana Contino is a cellist noted for her versatility and musicianship as a soloist, chamber musician and continuo cellist, as well as her abiding commitment to pedagogy and the profound humanity and spirituality that she brings to her art. As a professor of cello, baroque cello and chamber music at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany, she taught and concertized from 1991 to 2012. From 1987 to 1991 she served as principal cellist of both the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and Bach Collegium with which she toured world wide as soloist. In 1976, having completed a bachelor of music at Indiana University with Janos Starker, she was appointed to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Andre Previn. She was that orchestra's youngest member and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra's first female principal cellist. Currently, Adriana lives in Indianapolis and teaches at Anderson University, and is a regular guest lecturer at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, the University of Colorado and other schools of music around the country. In addition to her teaching and concertizing, she is regularly found sharing her healing artistry as skilled improviser and communicative player as a volunteer in hospitals, retirement communities, and hospice settings.

Jazz Vocalist (and FCC Jazz Vespers Director) Elena Escudero's Senior Recital
Sunday, April 7 – 1:00 p.m.

If you've been moved by the vocal artistry of Elena Escudero, the director of our First Friday Jazz Vespers, support her by planning to attend the final senior recital for her Bachelor's degree in Jazz Voice this Sunday, April 7th at 1:00 in MC066 (which is one of the rooms in the new addition behind the Musical Arts Center at the Jacobs School of Music). Plan to do brunch after church and then enjoy an hour or so of fantastic jazz singing!

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - April 14

Children will lead us in worship at 10:00 a.m. with a palm procession marking Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, days before he died on the cross.

Maundy Thursday - April 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18 for Maundy Thursday service of Communion and Meditation with music by the Sanctuary Choir and guest cellist Adriana Contino.

Good Friday - April 19 at 12:10 p.m.

FCC is hosting this year's community Good Friday worship service at 12:10 p.m. in our sanctuary. This year's service will be presented in a Taizé style of worship that includes the reading of the Passion of the Christ as well as meditative music and candle lighting.

Easter Sunday - April 21

Sunrise Service at Camp Bedford at 7:00 a.m.

FCC will be joining First Christian Church of Bedford for this special sunrise service at our beloved Camp Bedford. Worship begins at 7:00 a.m. and will be followed by breakfast at Camp Bedford.

Worship at FCC at 10:00 a.m.

Christ is Risen! Join us on Easter Sunday for worship as we celebrate with special music from our Sanctuary Choir. The celebration continues following worship with our annual Easter Egg Hunt. FCC's youth will be filling oodles of eggs with all sorts of sweet confections for children to find! Be sure to bring your basket!



Easter Offering


Received in worship on
April 14 & 21, 2019

Our general ministries provide critical resources to Disciples congregations, like stewardship campaign materials, loans and financial services, and space for community building around shared values and traditions.

Our ministries can bear these fruits because of our shared root system. We are rooted in Christ. As one branch of our vine grows, we can share more fruit with more people, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.



Our nearly annual **Lenten pretzel extravaganza** was enjoyed by more than 35 children, youth and adults during the late learning hour on March 31. Huge thanks go to Andi Fletcher and Carie Johann, who made the heavenly dough we rolled, twisted and baked into the classic pretzel shape that reminds us to pray during this holy season. We also owe a debt to Jeff, Lauren and Claire Johann; Jo Weddle; and Jenn Richards, whose help in the kitchen and throughout the event made things go much more smoothly. Siblings, grandparents, neighbors and hungry board members have expressed their appreciation of the delicious gifts made by our own young people.

Caregivers  Create

An Art Adventure for Health Caregivers - No Experience Necessary

Are you a caregiver? Do you need a little “Me” time? *Caregivers Create* is a **FREE** visual arts program for health caregivers, both personal and professional. It is designed to provide a bit of respite from the day-to-day tasks of caregiving, and to provide inspiration and relaxation for the health caregiver through an artistic adventure! **Reserve your place now!**

It's free, but reservations are required. Currently, reservations are limited to 10 people. To reserve your spot, or for more information, email: Jeanne at CaregiversCreate@gmail.com, or call First Christian Church, 812-332-4459.

APRIL 9 - Celebrate SPRING with EGGS!

This fun class will teach you a bit about the traditional art of decorating eggs and things that are shaped like eggs – like cookies. Join the fun and enjoy your art for dessert!

APRIL 23 – Celebrate SPRING with FLOWERS!

Watercolor is the perfect medium for painting spring flowers – tulips, crocus, daffodils. We'll transfer designs, then paint, creating a beautiful spring greeting card.

FCC's Annual Flower Sale Begins!

It's starting to feel like Spring this week... finally! And that means it's time for FCC's Annual Flower Sale fundraiser.

We all love flowers and they also make nice gifts. Mother's Day will be the following week after delivery! So, just keep that in mind too. The order forms will be available at the reception desk at FCC in April and Diane Thrasher can answer questions following worship on Sundays. **The deadline to order is April 21!** Pick up will be on Saturday, May 4th from noon-2:00 pm at the Solution Tree parking lot located



at 555 Morton Ave. If you have questions or would like to help with this fundraiser, contact Diane Thrasher.



Preparation for the XPLOR Renovation

When you send a request for a helping hand at FCC... expect that request to be met with a smile and your expectations exceeded. Thank you to Peggy Stafford, Kathy Street and Joanie Breeden for their hard work and time spent cleaning, purging, and organizing space on our lower level in preparation for the XPLOR related renovations.

Be on the lookout for future opportunities to help!

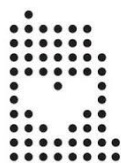


***It's time to order your
Easter Lilies!***

We are now taking orders for Easter Lilies to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

The Lilies are \$12.00 each. The **deadline for ordering is April 7.** You can place an order by

sending your order and payment to the FCC office, or filling out the order form in your Bulletin this Sunday and placing it in the offering tray. Payment must be made at the time of the order.



MCUM Challenge 2019

Most recent trip: 227 lbs

Year-to-date: 458 lbs

April Items Wanted:

Food Pantry

Canned green beans, corn
Pasta sauce
Canned fruit
Mac and Cheese
Canned tomatoes

Cleaning Closet

Laundry soap
Dish soap
All-purpose cleaners
Shampoo
Garbage bags



Join us for Jazz Vespers this
Friday, April 5 at 6:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sunday, April 7

8:30 am Meditation group
9:00 am Learning Session I
10:00 am Worship /Children's Worship & Wonder
11:15 Learning Session II
1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study
6:00 pm Celtic Spirituality

Monday, April 8

7:00 pm Women's Arts & Crafts

Tuesday, April 9

1:30 pm Caregivers Create!
5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Wednesday, April 10

11:45 am Voices of Faith

Thursday, April 11

5:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
6:15 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Palm Sunday, April 14

8:30 am Meditation group
9:00 am Learning Session I
10:00 am Worship and Children's Worship and Wonder

11:15 am Family Faith Formation gathering

11:15 am Learning Session II

1:00 pm Bloomington Bible Study

6:00 pm Celtic Spirituality

Tuesday, April 16

5:30 pm Listening to God meditation

Wednesday, April 17

7:00 pm Men's Book Group

Thursday, April 18

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday worship service

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Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule

April 7:
Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir

April 14:
Campbellite Class

April 21:
Men's Book Group & Book Bunch

**Scripture Readings
For Sunday Worship**

April 7
Luke 18:31, 19:10

April 14
Luke 19:29-44

April 21
Luke 24:1-12